

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:
establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;
creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information received from the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;
submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link; and
performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.
2. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, further comprising a step of displaying a production status of said press ready file, said production status indicating at least a current task being performed with said press ready file.
3. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 2, said production status further indicating what tasks in the workflow have been completed for said press ready file.
4. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 2, said production status being updated at a plurality of stages of the workflow.
5. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 2, wherein said production status is displayed at the designer location via said closed-loop communication link.

6. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 2, wherein said production status is displayed at the print service provide location via said closed-loop communication link.
7. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, wherein a job ticket for said press ready file is automatically updated upon completion of tasks in the workflow via said closed-loop communication link.
8. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 7, further comprises a performing automated job closing based upon information in said updated job ticket upon completion of production of said press ready file.
9. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, wherein establishing a closed-loop communication link further comprises allowing a user at the designer location to select said print service provider location from among a plurality of print service provider locations and corresponding information on production capabilities.
10. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment according to claim 1, further comprising performing automated tracking of said press ready file through the workflow from the designer location through the print service provider location.
11. A program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:
 - establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;

creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information received from the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;
submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link; and
performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.

12. A program product according to claim 11, further comprising a step of displaying a production status of said press ready file, said production status indicating at least a current task being performed with said press ready file.
13. A program product according to claim 12, said production status further indicating what tasks in the workflow have been completed for said press ready file.
14. A program product according to claim 12, said production status being updated at a plurality of stages of the workflow.
15. A program product according to claim 12, wherein said production status is displayed at the designer location via said closed-loop communication link.
16. A program product according to claim 12, wherein said production status is displayed at the print service provide location via said closed-loop communication link.
17. A program product according to claim 11, wherein a job ticket for said press ready file is automatically updated upon completion of tasks in the workflow via said closed-loop communication link.
18. A program product according to claim 17, further comprises a performing automated job closing based upon information in said updated job ticket upon completion of production of said press ready file.

19. A program product according to claim 11, wherein establishing a closed-loop communication link further comprises allowing a user at the designer location to select said print service provider location from among a plurality of print service provider locations and corresponding information on production capabilities.

20. A program product according to claim 11, further comprising performing automated tracking of said press ready file through the workflow from the designer location through the print service provider location.

21. A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said system comprising:

means for establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location the said print service provider location;

means for creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information received from the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link;

means for submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via said closed-loop communication link; and

means for performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.